

# SOMALIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #5, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**3.2**  
**million**

Somalis in Need of  
Humanitarian Assistance

UN – September 2015

**855,000**

Somalis Experiencing Crisis or  
Emergency Levels of Acute  
Food Insecurity

FEWS NET – August 2015

**1.1**  
**million**

IDPs in Somalia

UNHCR – September 2015

**967,046**

Somali Refugees in  
Neighboring Countries

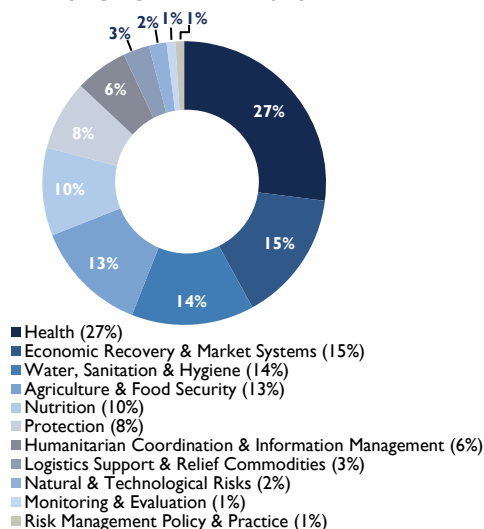
UNHCR – September 2015

**420,199**

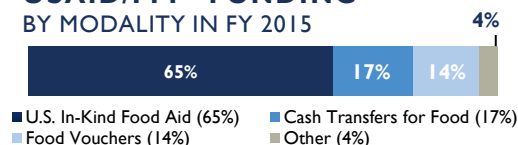
Somali Refugees in Kenya

UNHCR – September 2015

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing insecurity exacerbates the negative effects of erratic seasonal rains and below-average harvests
- El Niño-related flooding may affect up to 900,000 people, limit humanitarian access
- FSNAU records emergency malnutrition levels in Somalia

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO SOMALIA TO DATE IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$52,028,621
USAID/FFP	\$113,026,598
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$39,100,000
<b>\$204,155,219</b> TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Food security conditions in Somalia have deteriorated since early 2015, with approximately 855,000 people experiencing Crisis or Emergency—IPC 3 or 4—levels of food insecurity as of August, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>4</sup>
- The El Niño climatic event will likely have a mixed effect on Somalia's humanitarian situation in the coming months, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization reports. While the early cessation of the April-to-June *gu* rains decreased food security in some areas, above-average October-to-December *deyr* rainfall attributable to El Niño may improve crop and pasture development. El Niño-associated rainfall may also result in severe flooding in southern regions, and exacerbate drought conditions in northwestern Somalia, according to the UN.
- In FY 2015, the U.S. Government (USG) provided more than \$204 million in humanitarian assistance to Somalia, allowing partners to provide emergency food assistance; healthcare services; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, among other lifesaving activities.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>4</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

## EL NIÑO EFFECTS AND RESPONSE

- Due to El Niño, the UN and international experts predict that the October-to-December *deyr* rains will result in above-average rainfall in central and southern Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands—a significant catchment area for the Juba and Shabelle rivers that flow through Somalia. The increased rains are likely to result in average to above-average crop development and pasture regeneration in many locations; however, there is also an increased risk of flooding in riverine areas along the Juba and Shabelle rivers, as well as in low-lying areas of Galgaduud, Mudug, and Nugal regions, according to the UN. As severe river floods are highly likely during the *deyr* rainy season, vulnerable households in riverine areas of Middle Shabelle Region may deteriorate to Emergency-level food insecurity if agricultural production and trade slow in the coming months, according to FEWS NET.
- Severe flooding triggered by El Niño may affect between 500,000 and 900,000 people in Somalia through 2015 and early 2016, the UN reports. Relief actors have expressed concern that flooding may further constrain humanitarian access—already limited due to ongoing armed conflict—in riverine areas over the coming months. In 2006, El Niño-related rains and flooding affected more than 440,000 people in the Juba and Shabelle river basins, requiring relief organizations to utilize boats to provide humanitarian assistance to affected areas.
- In preparation for flood responses, relief organizations are coordinating logistics plans and identifying warehouses in Middle Shabelle’s Jowhar town and Somalia’s capital city of Mogadishu to pre-position emergency relief commodities. To ensure adequate transport capacity, the Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders—is utilizing short-term contracts to acquire boats and barges, cargo planes, and helicopters to improve humanitarian access to flood-prone areas.
- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has developed an El Niño Contingency Plan for Somalia, in consultation with federal and regional government authorities, and estimates that relief agencies may require up to \$30 million for El Niño-related preparedness and initial response activities. Relief actors identified inadequate funding and access impediments as the primary constraints on preparedness and response planning.

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## INSECURITY, HUMANITARIAN ACCESS, AND DISPLACEMENT

- Persistent insecurity across Somalia continues to concern humanitarian organizations. On August 22, al-Shabaab attacks near Mogadishu and at an AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali National Army (SNA) military base in southern Somalia resulted in at least 18 deaths and injured more than 30 people, according to international media. On August 26, al-Shabaab elements attacked a government convoy traveling between towns in Gedo Region, killing seven people, international media report.
- In mid-August, the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia Peter de Clercq and UN assessment teams visited Bay Region’s Dinsoor town and Gedo’s Baardheere town—areas where AMISOM and SNA forces recently regained control from al-Shabaab militants. The assessments indicated that increased insecurity during the recent AMISOM–SNA offensive negatively influenced livelihoods in each town and that affected populations lack access to food, safe drinking water, and basic services. As security conditions improve, the UN expects that humanitarian activities will increase in Dinsoor and Baardheere, where more than 14 humanitarian organizations currently operate.
- From August 31 to September 27, more than 780 Somali refugees from Kenya’s Dadaab refugee camp repatriated to Somalia under the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-supported voluntary returns process. With UNHCR assistance, more than 4,300 Somali refugees voluntarily returned to Somalia from Kenya between December 2014 and September 2015.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- The number of people experiencing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity in Somalia increased by 17 percent—from approximately 731,000 people to 855,000 people—between February and August, according to FEWS NET and the UN Food Security and Nutritional Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU). Approximately 68 percent

of people experiencing Crisis- and Emergency-level food insecurity are internally displaced persons (IDPs). FEWS NET and FSNAU attribute the country's poor food security situation to erratic April-to-June *gu* rains, which ended early in May, as well as trade disruptions and population displacement related to insecurity and military operations against al-Shabaab.

- On August 8, the regional government in Somaliland issued an emergency appeal requesting humanitarian assistance for approximately 240,000 people affected by acute drought conditions resulting from below-average *deyr* and *gu* rainfall in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The most affected populations are in northern parts of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions, which are important food producing areas. The poor rainy season performance has resulted in below-average crop production in Somaliland, as well as increasing malnutrition, atypical livestock deaths, and water shortages, according to relief actors. Most vulnerable households in the affected areas are currently experiencing Crisis-level food insecurity, but would likely deteriorate to Emergency-level food insecurity without continued humanitarian assistance, FEWS NET reports.
- As a result of the early cessation of the *gu* rains, FEWS NET and FSNAU estimate that the August *gu* cereal harvest was approximately 25 percent below the long-term average, with poor cereal production in Hiran, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, and Middle Shabelle regions. In addition, below-average rainfall has contributed to drought conditions, a severe water shortage, and atypical livestock deaths in northwestern Somalia, FEWS NET reports.
- In FY 2015, USAID/FFP provided more than \$113 million in assistance for food-insecure and displaced persons, including nearly 40,700 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food commodities. USAID/FFP continues to support implementing partners, including the UN World Food Program (WFP) in Somalia to provide multi-sector interventions—including cash transfers, food vouchers, and agricultural, livestock, and vocational training—in response to Somalia's increased food insecurity.

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## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- As of September 22, health actors had vaccinated approximately 23,000 children younger than five years of age against polio in Baardheere and 40 surrounding settlements, the UN reports. Approximately 180 health workers conducted the four day-long vaccination campaign, which was led by the UN World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and represented the first such campaign in Baardheere since 2009, according to local media.
- Nearly 215,000 children younger than five years of age were acutely malnourished as of August 31—a figure that is likely to increase to more than 343,000 children through the end of the year, according to FSNAU. IDPs in informal settlements in Banadir, Bay, and Lower Shabelle regions account for approximately one-third of the total acute malnutrition caseload, with the majority from Mogadishu IDP settlements.
- According to FSNAU, the global acute malnutrition prevalence in northwestern Somalia's Guban Pastoral Livelihood Zone was approximately 22 percent as of September, while severe acute malnutrition prevalence was approximately 6 percent—exceeding the WHO emergency thresholds of 15 percent and 2 percent, respectively. FSNAU projects that the nutrition situation will continue to deteriorate until the onset of the *deyr* rains in October, which may moderately improve nutrition levels due to increased livestock production, milk availability, and trade.

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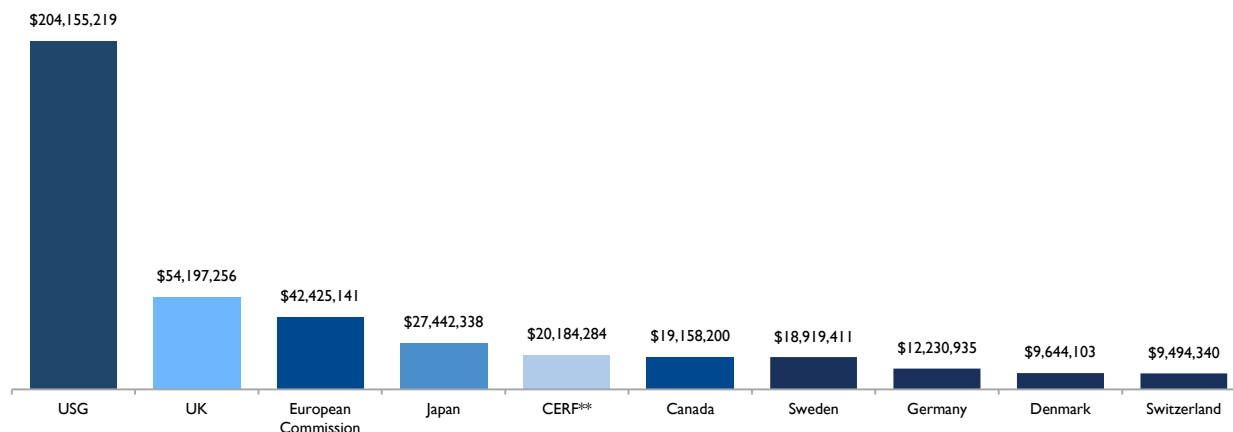
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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On September 28, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged donors to continue supporting relief interventions for the more than three million Somalis in need of humanitarian assistance. As of September 30, international donors had contributed nearly \$507 million to address urgent humanitarian needs in Somalia.
- In FY 2015, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$52 million to support life-saving interventions for conflict-affected populations in Somalia, including for agriculture and food security; economic recovery and market systems (ERMS); health; nutrition; protection; and WASH programs. USAID/OFDA also helped to improve the overall humanitarian response capacity in Somalia by strengthening humanitarian coordination and information management and supporting partners to distribute emergency relief commodities.

## 2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\*

PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of September 30, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA Financial Tracking Service, based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments in FY 2015, which began on October 1, 2014.

\*\* Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the UN to support underfunded emergencies.

### CONTEXT

- Since 1991, Somalia has experienced a persistent complex emergency due to chronic food insecurity, widespread violence, and recurrent droughts and floods. The 2011 drought—widely regarded as the country’s worst in 60 years—severely reduced food security among pastoralists and populations in marginal farming areas, resulting in famine in areas of Bay, Bakool, and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions, as well as among IDPs in Mogadishu and the nearby Afgoye corridor.
- Despite modest improvements in 2014 and 2015, malnutrition rates in Somalia remain among the highest in the world, and ongoing insecurity in the country—particularly in areas that lack established local authorities and where al-Shabaab is present—contributes to the complex emergency. Sustained life-saving humanitarian assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at protecting livelihoods and building resilience, is critical to help vulnerable households meet basic needs, reduce malnutrition, and protect livelihoods.
- Due to ongoing and anticipated humanitarian needs, on October 1, 2014, U.S. Ambassador James P. McNulty, Special Representative for Somalia in Nairobi, Kenya, renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Somalia for FY 2015.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA PROVIDED IN FY 2015<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Countrywide	\$52,028,621
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$52,028,621</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP and Implementing Partners	40,680 MT of In-Kind Emergency Food Assistance for Relief, Nutrition, Safety Net, and Livelihoods Activities; Cash Assistance and Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$113,026,598
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$113,026,598</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Humanitarian Organizations	Multi-Sector Protection and Assistance Activities to Aid Refugees, IDPs, and Conflict-Affected Victims	Countrywide	\$39,100,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$39,100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$204,155,219</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents obligated funding amounts as of September 30, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>